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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. El Walid DOUDECH (Tunisia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the following items:

"90. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

"12. Report of the Economic and Social Council".

At the same meeting, the Assembly decided to allocate to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) agenda item 90, together with chapter V (sect. C) ____ of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/51/3 (Parts I to III)),[1] which relates to the item.

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 October 1996, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 19, 88, 89, 90 and 12, and 91, on the

[1] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/51/3/Rev.1).

understanding that individual proposals on matters covered by those items would be considered separately. The general debate took place at the 2nd to 5th meetings, on 1, 7, 9 and 10 October.

3. The Committee considered items 90 and 12 at its 2nd to 5th and 20th meetings, on 1, 7, 9 and 10 October and 22 November 1996 (see A/C.4/51/SR.2-5 and 20).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/51/23 (Part IV), chap. VII);[2]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 50/34 of 6 December 1995 (A/51/212);

(c) Report of the Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1853).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 October, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples made a statement in which he gave an account of the relevant activities of the Special Committee during 1996 and drew attention to chapter VII of the report of that Committee relating to item 90 (A/51/23 (Part IV)) containing, inter alia, the related draft resolution submitted by the Special Committee for the consideration of the Fourth Committee.

6. At its 20th meeting, on 22 November, the Fourth Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in paragraph 16 of chapter VII of the report of the Special Committee (A/51/23 (Part IV)), by a recorded vote of 62 to 2, with 39 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:[3]

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[2] To be incorporated in Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23).

[3] Subsequently, the delegation of Papua New Guinea informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution, and the delegations of Belgium and the Russian Federation that they had intended to abstain. The delegations of Algeria, Colombia, Eritrea, Maldives, New Zealand, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Peru, the United Arab Emirates and Zambia informed the Secretariat that, had they been present at the time of the voting, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution, and the delegations of Azerbaijan, Greece, Kazakstan and Slovakia informed the Secretariat that, had they been present at the time of the voting, they would have abstained.

In favour: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against: Belgium, Papua New Guinea.

Abstaining: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Ireland, on behalf of the European Union, made a statement.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (FOURTH COMMITTEE)

8. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled 'Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations',

Having also considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General[4] and the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[5]

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[6]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, and resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures,

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[4] A/51/212.

[5] A/AC.109/L.1853.

[6] A/51/23 (Part IV), chap. VII.

within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community, as well as other regional organizations, for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling its relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolution 50/34 of 6 December 1995 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council[5] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;[7]

2. Recommends that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. Reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

4. Reaffirms also that the recognition by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspiration of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

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[7] See E/1996/85.

5. Expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

6. Requests the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, as well as regional organizations, to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories and strengthen existing measures of support, and, in that regard, to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates;

7. Recommends that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

8. Also recommends that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

9. Welcomes the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

10. Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

11. Requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

12. Recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations and, in that connection, accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in

implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

14. Commends the Economic and Social Council for its debate[8] and its resolution 1996/37 of 26 July 1996 on this issue, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

15. Requests the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

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[8] See E/1996/SR.44.